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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,311	09/16/2003	Robert C. Rajewski	004-68	1789
20212	7590	08/14/2006	EXAMINER	
THOMPSON LAMBERT LLP 2711 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY ARLINGTON, VA 22202			LEE, KEVIN L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3753	

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,311

Applicant(s)

RAJEWSKI, ROBERT C.

Examiner

KEVIN L. LEE

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Canada on July 21, 2003. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the foreign application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The recitation of "the mechanical hand" in claim 7 lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawakami et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,098,071). The patent to Kawakami et al discloses a timing apparatus comprising a clock (8) with a sweeping hand (23) and a reed switch

(22) activated by the passage of the sweeping hand past the switch. A magnet (24) is carried by the sweeping hand; see col. 2, lines 39-64.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawakami et al. Kawakami et al teaches that a signal for any desired time can be produced by providing the reed switch at a position corresponding to the desired time, col. 2, lines 64-68. It would have involved an obvious design choice and/or multiplication of parts to provide a plurality of sweeping hands with magnets or a plurality of switches so that multiple times can be signaled.

Claims 1, 2, and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McGill et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,634,369) in view of Kawakami et al. The patent to McGill et al discloses an ignition system for a flare stack, the apparatus including a timer control (26) to provide a predetermined time interval, col. 3, lines 4-8. The timer lacks having a clock with a magnet and reed switch to produce a time signal based on passage of the sweeping hand of the clock past the reed switch. The patent to Kawakami et al teaches the above exception; see the above paragraphs. In view of the

teaching of Kawakami et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus of McGill et al to include the clock of Kawakami et al as an alternate means of providing a predetermined time interval for the ignition system.

Claims 1, 2, 14, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison (U.S. Patent No. 4,059,149) in view of Kawakami et al. The patent to Harrison discloses a control mechanism for a fluid injector, the control mechanism including a clock (28) for providing a predetermined time interval, col. 2, lines 44-48. The timer lacks having a clock with a magnet and reed switch to produce a time signal based on passage of the sweeping hand of the clock past the reed switch. The patent to Kawakami et al teaches the above exception; see the above paragraphs. In view of the teaching of Kawakami et al, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus of Harrison to include the clock of Kawakami et al as an alternate means of providing a predetermined time interval for the fluid injector system.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison (U.S. Patent No. 4,059,149) in view of Kawakami et al as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Minkkinen et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,351,756). The fluid injector of Harrison lacks injecting a hydrate inhibitor. The patent to Minkkinen et al teaches injecting a hydrate inhibitor in a natural gas pipeline to reduce or prevent the formation of hydrates, col. 1, lines 28-47. In view of the teaching of Minkkinen et al, it would have

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been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Harrison to include injecting a hydrate inhibitor in the natural gas pipeline to prevent or reduce the formation of hydrates in the pipeline, therein reducing or eliminating blockages in the pipeline.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patent to Schmitt (U.S. Patent No. 3,631,451) is cited for the additional showing of a clock having a magnet (5) attached to sweeping hand (3) moving past a switch (1).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEVIN L. LEE whose telephone number is (571) 272-4915. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ERIC KEASEL can be reached on (571) 272-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AUGUST 1, 2006


Kevin Lee
Primary Examiner